PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET

Survey #: <u>65-15</u> Building Date: <u>c.1948-1952</u>

Building Name: <u>Rizzo House</u>

Location: 6911 21st Avenue, Lewisdale, Maryland

Private/Residence/Occupied/Excellent/Inaccessible

<u>Description</u>

The Rizzo House (6911 21st Avenue, Lewisdale; Block 10, Lot 24, Lewisdale Subdivision), is a one- and two-story, square-plan, buff brick dwelling built in the Art Deco/Moderne style. The main facade of the house is oriented to the west. The exterior is a simply detailed geometric composition of projecting and receding volumes. The most prominent decorative elements of the house are found in its multi-light steel casement windows and the glass block wall and porthole window that flank the entry. A large projecting brick chimney is centered on the one-story portion of the south elevation. The house rests on a concrete foundation (44' 10" x 28' 10"). The exterior of the house is unaltered and excellent condition.

<u>Significance</u>

The Rizzo House was constructed between 1948 and 1952 and is significant as an example of post World War II residential construction in the Art Deco/Moderne style. Built in the emerging subdivision of Lewisdale from plans sold by the L.F. Garlinghouse Plan Company of Topeka, Kansas, the house is noteworthy as one of two known examples of its type in the Washington, DC, area (both are in Prince George's County). The house is also an essentially intact and locally rare example of a modest dwelling in the Art Deco/Moderne style. The unusual character of the house has made it a prominent visual landmark within its community since its completion. The house is also significant as the work of a woman designer, Iva G. Lieurance.

Acreage: 8,704 square feet

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA

Geographic Organization: Western Shore

Chronological/Development Periods:

Modern Period - AD 1930 - Present

Historic Period Themes:

Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

Resource Type:

Category: building

Historic Environment: Suburban

Historic Functions and Uses: Domestic/Single Dwelling

Design Source: Iva G. Lieurance for Garlinghouse Company

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Magı	NO.	
DOE	yes	no

1. Nam	e (indicate pr	eferred name)	•	
historic				
and/or common	Rizzo House			
2. Loca				
street & number	6911 21st Avenue			not for publication
city, town Lev	wisdale	vicinity of	congressional district	4th
state Ma	ryland	county	Prince George's	
3. Clas	sification			
Category district building(s) structure site object	Ownership public both Public Acquisition in process being considered X not applicable	Status occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation other:
4. Owr	er of Prope	rty (give names a	nd mailing addresse	s of <u>all</u> owners)
name Mrs. L	illian Walker			
street & number	6911 21st Avenue		telephone no	0.:
city, town Le	wisdale	state	and zip code Mary	land 20783
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	on	
courthouse, reg	istry of deeds, etc. Princ	e George's County Co	ourthouse	liber 6394
street & number	Main Street			folio 937
city, town	Upper Marlboro		state	Maryland
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surv	eys
title N/A				
date			federal stat	e county loca
depository for s	u rvey rec ords			
city, town			state	

7.	Des	crip	tion

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good	deterlorated ruins unexposed	^ altered	Check one original site moved date of move

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Rizzo House at 6911 21st Avenue, Hyattsville (Block 10, Lot 24, Lewisdale Subdivision), is a one- and two-story, square-plan, buff brick dwelling built in the Art Deco/Moderne style. The main facade of the house is oriented to the west. The exterior is a simply detailed geometric composition of projecting and receding volumes. The most prominent decorative elements of the house are found in its multi-light steel casement windows and the glass block wall and porthole window that flank the entry. A large projecting brick chimney is centered on the one-story portion of the south elevation. The house rests on a concrete foundation (44' 10" x 28' 10"). The exterior of the house is unaltered and very good condition.

Exterior

The building's dramatic zigzag massing is achieved with a series of projecting and receding rectilinear volumes at the second story set on a larger rectangular first story. The only departure from this is the rounded projection of the first story that shelters the entry stoop and door of the main (west) facade. This rounded projection is supported by a steel pipe. Brick is laid in American bond except for a single course basketweave watertable that encircles the building, and small sections of stacked header bond at the rounded projection and at the base of the glass block wall of the main facade. At two of the main facade's receding second story corners there are three single-course lines of contrasting yellow brick. The top line contains two stretchers, the middle line four, and the bottom line six.

Flat, unadorned wall planes are punctuated with rectangular window openings into which multi-pane steel casement windows are set. All windows have concrete sills and most have steel frame exterior storm windows. At grade on the north, south and east elevations are windows of varying sizes; the windows of the south and east elevations have window-wells. Throughout the house, larger windows frequently have operable multi-light casements flanking a fixed-sash plate glass section. To the front of the house, at both the first and second story, there are corner windows. Where corner windows are used, a steel pipe provides structural support.

Exterior walls terminate in plain horizontal parapets capped with simple metal flashing. The roofs of all sections of the building are composition; the one-story portions are flat and the two-story portion has a shallow shed roof that slopes to the rear (east). The second story of the rear (east elevation) lacks the simple horizontal parapet found on the rest of the house. The north elevation has two one-story gutters and downspouts directing water from the flat roofs which also serve as terraces. The two-story portion of the rear elevation has a full-width gutter and downspout draining the shed roof; the one-story section has a partial gutter and downspout.

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Centered on the main (west) facade beneath its rounded projection, is an entry door of plain wood with a single-light porthole window. There is a three-step concrete entry stoop. South of the entry is the convex-curve glass block wall underneath the rounded projection. Center of the one-story section of the main facade south of the entry is a large Chicago-style casement window. North of the entry door and sheltered by the rounded projection, is a small rectangular glass block window. To the north of that is a small porthole casement window with an operative center light. At the first story north edge of the main facade is a corner window. The second story of the main facade is partially cut away to the north

There are two small windows at grade on the north (driveway) elevation. At the western edge of the elevation is part of the main facade first-story corner window. To the center is another small window and to the east of it is wider window set slightly higher on the wall. To the east at the second story is a small window. At the east end of the elevation the first and second story meet. Proceeding to the west, the volume of the second story is cut away forming a small roof terrace. The westernmost volume of the second story meets the first story building line of the main facade.

The east (rear) elevation is dominated by a square-plan jalousied porch at the center of the first story. The porch rests on a concrete slab supported by brick piers and is sheltered by a shed roof. Concealed by the porch are a wood and glass door and a small three-part window. North of the porch is a similar window. At grade is a set of concrete steps leading to a wood and glass basement door. The steps are enclosed by a simple black wrought iron railing and gate. South of the porch at the one-story section of the facade is a large Chicago-style window. Above the rear porch at the south end of the second story, is a corner window.

The south elevation contains three Chicago-style windows. Two flank the chimney at the western half of the elevation; to the east, the third window is placed slightly higher than the other two. Above the first story parapet the sides of the chimney shaft are tapered and the chimney shaft narrows. From the south elevation, the second story of the building is deeply recessed to provide a large roof terrace.

Interior

The interior of the house is as simply detailed as the exterior. The only applied decorative elements are found in simple wood door surrounds and baseboards, a decorative wrought-iron stair rail and the ochre Roman brick of the living room mantel. Major spaces on the first floor are separated by round arched openings of varying sizes. Where doors are used, they are

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without ornament and constructed of wood veneer that is lightly stained. The first and second floors and stairs are covered with wall-to-wall carpeting over linoleum. Throughout the house, interior window ledges are finished with plain ceramic tiles with molded edges.

The first floor plan is organized around a large centered entry hall accessed from a small entry vestibule. At the west end of the hall is a small coat closet which is lighted by the small rectangular glass block window north of the entry door. At the east end of the hall is an open-string stair with a wrought iron railing. South of the entry hall, through a large round-arched opening, is the living room. This room is lighted by a large casement window and the curved glass block window/wall from the west, as well as large casement windows flanking the fireplace centered on the south wall. The low, wide mantel is faced with ochre Roman bricks laid in stacked bond. At the east end of the living room, through a round arched opening and on a slightly raised platform, is a formal dining area (total dimensions 15'7" x 29').

North of the entry hall is a short hall that leads directly north to a bedroom and east to the kitchen. In the small service hall that leads to the kitchen, there is a linen closet and the stairs to the basement. The first floor bedroom $(13'2" \times 16'7")$ at the northwest corner [of the floor] has a closet and a private full bathroom. The full bath represents a modification to the plan as delivered which provided for a powder room in this location that is served by doors from the entry hall and first floor bedroom. The bathroom is lighted by the porthole window of the main facade. The kitchen retains its original built-in appliances and cabinets from the early 1950s. The table space now within the kitchen, was the original dining room and was separated from the preparation side of the kitchen by a wall and swinging door (total dimensions $26'7" \times 10'$). Soon after the house was completed, the dining room was incorporated into the kitchen as its table space, and a formal dining area was created at the east end of the living room.

The second floor contains two bedrooms and a bathroom and has considerably smaller floor area than the first floor. One bedroom is located to the west $(13' \times 13')$ and the other to the east $(15'2" \times 10')$. Each bedroom contains a closet as does the upstairs hall. The hall and stairs are lighted from the south by a narrow vertical glass block window. To the northwest and south of the second floor are the flat-roofed one-story portions of the house. The larger of the two roof areas to the south, above the living room, serves as an outdoor terrace and is reached by a wood and glass door from the west bedroom. The terrace is encircled an unadorned low parapet.

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The basement level of the house is accessed by a set of stairs from the first floor service hall and an outdoor areaway to the rear (east) of the house. The basement contains several rooms including a large recreation/family room of the same dimensions as the living room. The room is finished with knotty pine panelling and contains a bar and built-in storage units. There is a fireplace in the south wall that shares the chimney with the living fireplace. On the east side of the basement is the mechanical room which contains the original oil furnace and modern laundry equipment. Across the north half of the basement is a kitchen, bedroom and bath that are not original to the house. All rooms in the basement are lighted by steel casement windows in the north, east and south elevations.

8.	Si	gn	ifi	ca	nc	e
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Survey No. PG#65-15

Period Areas of Significance— — prehistoric — archeology-prehistoric — 1500−1599 — agriculture — 1600−1699 — architecture — 1700−1799 — art — 1800−1899 — commerce 1900− — communications		heck and justify below Iandscape architecture religion conservation law science economics literature sculpture education military social/ engineering music humanitarian exploration/settlement philosophy theater industry politics/government transportation invention other (specify)
Specific	dates c.1948-1952	Builder/Architect paris Rizzo/Garlinghouse Plan Co.
check:	Applicable Criteria:A	B <u>X</u> CD ABCDEF <u>X</u> G
	Level of Significance:	_nationalstate X_local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The Rizzo House (6911 21st Avenue, Lewisdale), constructed between 1948 and 1952, is significant as an example of post World War II residential construction in the Art Deco/Moderne style. Built in the emerging subdivision of Lewisdale from plans sold by the L.F. Garlinghouse Plan Company of Topeka, Kansas, the house is noteworthy as one of two known examples of its type in the Washington, DC, area (both are in Prince George's County). The house is also an essentially intact and locally rare example of a modestly scaled dwelling in the Art Deco/Moderne style. The unusual character of the house has made it a prominent visual landmark within its community since its completion. The house is also significant as the work of a woman designer, Iva G. Lieurance.

The house was constructed largely by its original owner, Paris Rizzo. Rizzo and his wife, Josephine, purchased Lot 24 in Block 10 in the Lewisdale subdivision from John C. and Helen S. Lewis on August 27, 1947. In August 1946, the Lewises had platted a 24.15 acre parcel west of Hyattsville (and northeast of the intersection of Riggs and Ager roads and East-West Highway/MD Route 410) as portions of Blocks 1,2, 2-A, 9,10,11 and 12 of Lewisdale. This subdivision, part of several tracts totalling about 400 acres, had been acquired by the Lewises in December 1945 from Margaret C. Bohlen. Bohlen was executor of the estates of E. Francis and Alwina Bohlen Riggs, deceased owners of Green Hill Farm, out of which the Lewisdale property was sold. E. Francis Riggs had operated Green Hill Farm as a model dairy after inheriting and assembling a number of tracts acquired during and after the Civil War by his grandfather, George Washington Riggs.

After purchasing Lot 24 in Block 10, Paris Rizzo set about finding an appropriate house to construct for his family. While shopping in Kann's department store in Washington, Rizzo saw a catalog from the L. F. Garlinghouse Plan Company of Topeka, Kansas. From the company, Rizzo acquired drawings for plan No. 578, described as "a beautiful modernistic design that may be built of concrete, brick, or blocks." From 1948 to 1952, Rizzo constructed the house by himself and with the assistance of his brother-in-law, Nicholas Marescalco. The electrical and plumbing systems were installed by outside contractors.

Although the house is one of the earliest built in the Lewisdale subdivision, it did not serve as a model for later homebuilders. The remainder of the subdivision was completed in the late 1940s and 1950s with a range of modest brick houses in popular post-war styles including Cape Cod, Colonial and Ranch. After raising their family in the house and retiring, the Rizzos sold the house to its current owner, Mrs. Lillian Walker, in August 1986.

L.F. Garlinghouse Company

The L.F. Garlinghouse Company (the Garlinghouse Plan Company) is one of the oldest mail-order house plan companies in the United States. Founded in Topeka, Kansas, around 1906 by Lewis Fayette Garlinghouse, the company still exists today and distributes a variety of house plans from its headquarters in Middletown, Connecticut. L.F. Garlinghouse (1879-1965) founded the company after engaging in the real estate business for several years. The company began by constructing over 1,000 houses from its own designs in Topeka, Marysville, and elsewhere in Kansas. Plans for many of these early designs were later published as "Bungalow Homes". The company continued to construct its own houses until 1932, whereafter it focused exclusively on supplying mail-order plans.

In 1907, soon after the company was founded, Mr. Garlinghouse hired Iva Gay Lieurance (1886-1956) as a designer. At 17, Miss Lieurance came to the Garlinghouse Company without an academic background in design or construction. Throughout a career that spanned almost fifty years, she personally supervised or was responsible for the Company's house designs. Lieurance is the only known woman credited for design work associated with the mail-order house movement.

The decidedly modernist aesthetic of Garlinghouse design No. 578 was not typical of the designs produced by Lieurance for Garlinghouse. Throughout the first half of the 20th century, plans sold by the Company reflected main-stream architectural preferences. In the 1920s and early 1930s, frame bungalows, cottages and two-story houses in the craftsman style were popular with families of modest means and first-time homebuyers. Garlinghouse supplied a wide range of houses in the style (along with Sears & Roebuck, Aladdin Homes and others in the mail-order house industry). By the early 1930s, the architectural tastes of middle-class homebuilders shifted. The Company's designs reflect contemporary interest in the American Colonial and Georgian Revival styles as well as the more picturesque and romantic styles of the European countryside including the Tudor, Norman and Mediterranean Revivals. Although used for all building types, the Art Deco/Moderne aesthetic is most commonly associated with office and commercial buildings and the style is represented in Garlinghouse catalogs by a single residential design, plan No. 578.

NOTES

- 1. Prince George's County Land Records, 990:299.
- 2. Prince George's County Land Records, 801:131.
- 3.George Washington Riggs was one of 19th century Washington's wealthiest citizens. Together with William Wilson Corcoran, he founded what is now Riggs National Bank. Col. E. Francis Riggs was assassinated in Puerto Rico in February 1936, while serving as Chief of Insular Police. Mrs. Riggs died soon thereafter; her mother served as their executor and disposed of land to satisfy the indebtedness caused by the extensive operating costs of Green Hill Farm.
- 4.210 Deluxe Small Homes, L.F. Garlinghouse Company, Topeka, Kansas. no date (c.1947).
- 5. About the same time and with the same plans, Nicholas Marescalco began construction of a house for his family in Camp Springs, Prince George's County. The Marescalco house, constructed of concrete block and faced with stucco, is the other example of plan No. 578 in the Washington area. Sources: Oral interviews, Josephine Rizzo, Thurmont, Maryland and Nicholas Marescalco, Camp Springs, Maryland, October, 1991.
- 6.Prince George's County Land Records, 6394:937.

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- 7.Biographical data is taken from <u>Encyclopedia of American Biography</u> and materials from the Kansas State Historical Society, Historic Preservation Department, Center for Historical Research, Topeka, Kansas.
- 8."Local Firm Nation's Largest Designer of Postwar Homes", <u>Topeka Daily</u> <u>Capital</u>, 5 August 1945, p.7.
- 9. "Miss Iva Gay Lieurance", Obituary, <u>Topeka Daily Capital</u>, February 7, 1956, p. 16.
- 10.A company spokesman declined to identify the quantities or locations of Garlinghouse designs. The spokesman suggested that No. 578 did not prove popular and that only a handful may have been built. Oral interview, Doreen Rainville, The Garlinghouse Company, Middletown, Connecticut, 4 December 1991.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.PG#65-15

See Notes, Section #8

10. Geograph	ical Data		
Acreage of nominated property	8,704 sq. ft (B	lock 10, Lot 2	24, Lewisdale)
Quadrangle name Washingto			Quadrangle scale
UTM References do NOT com	mplete UTM refe	rences	
A	lorthing	B Zone	Easting Northing
c		0	
E		F L	
G		H	
List all states and counties	for properties over	rlapping state or	county boundaries code
state	code	county	code
11. Form Prep	ared By		
name/title Howard S. Berger	, Architectural	Historian	
organization Historic Prese	ervation Section	/M-NCPPC	date June 1992
CAB 4th Floor street & number 14741 Gov. Oden Bowie Drive		ve	telephone (301) 952-3520
city or town Upper Marlboro)		state Maryland 20772

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust

Shaw House 21 State Circle

Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269-2438

Chain of Title

6911 21st Avenue

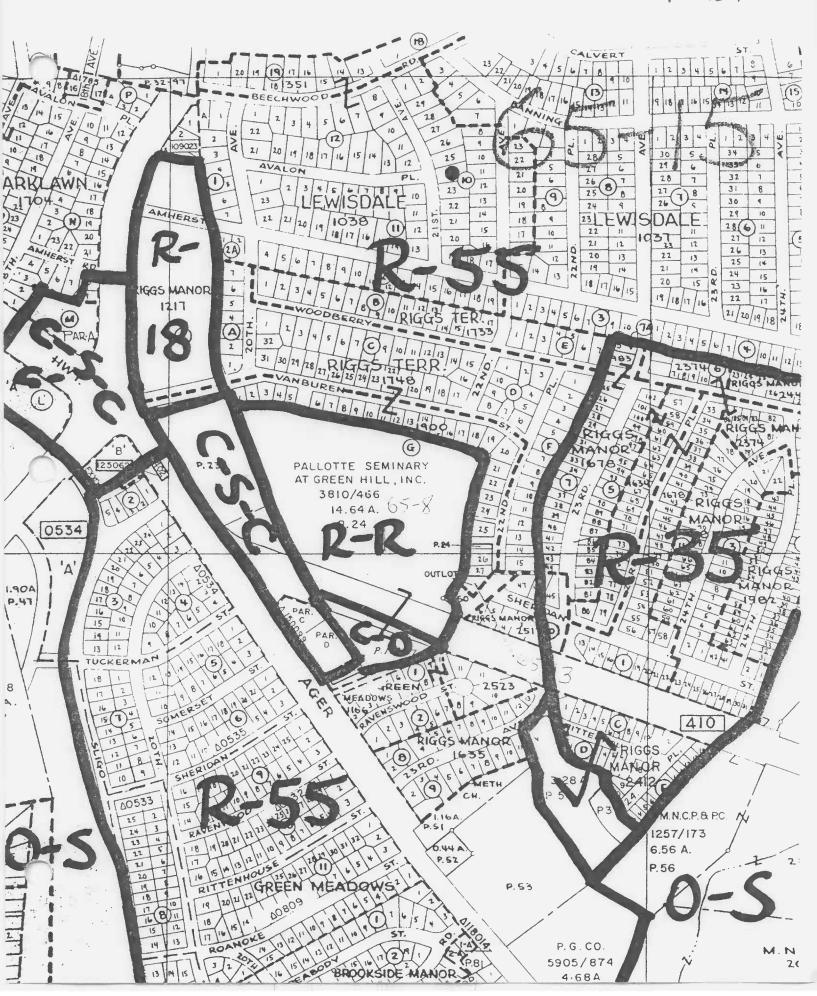
6394:937 1 August 1986 Deed

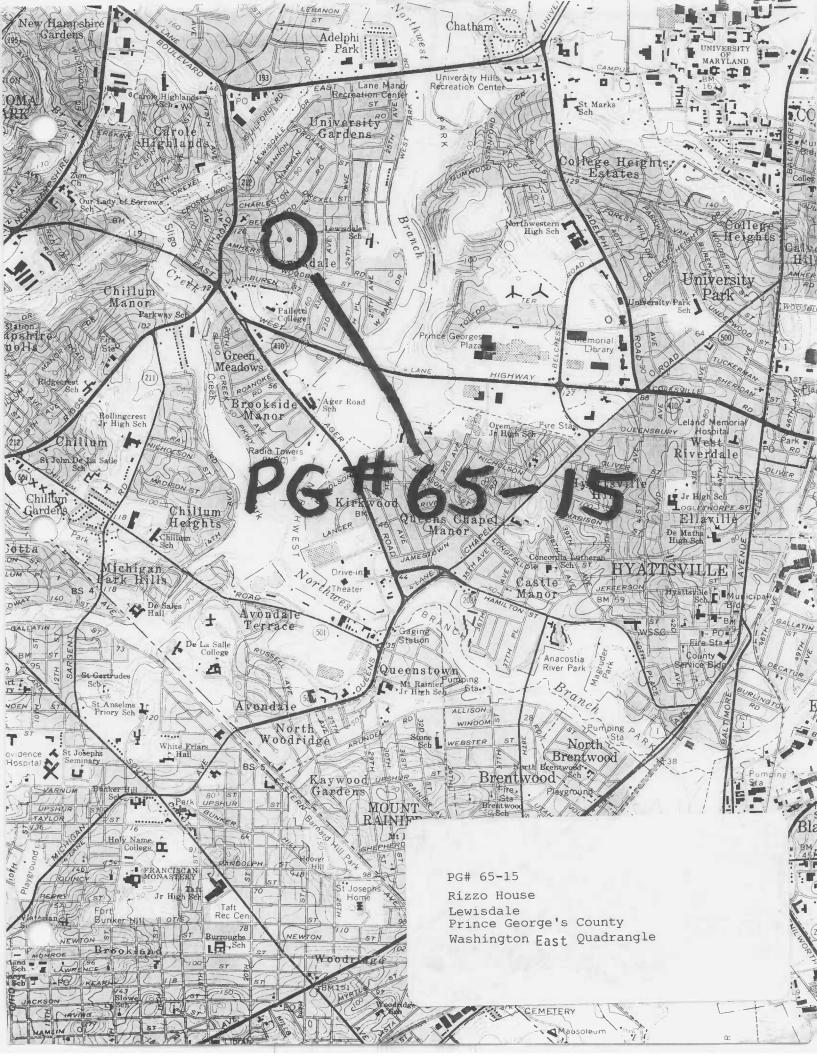
990:299 27 August 1947 Deed

801:131 31 December 1945 Deed Paris and Josephine Rizzo to Lillian Walker, etal. Grantors convey Lot 24 in Block 10, Lewisdale Subdivision. Plat recorded BB10:93. Same obtained from John C. and Helen S. Lewis, 27 August 1947, 990:299.

John C. and Helen S. Lewis to Paris and Josephine Rizzo. Grantors convey Lot 24 in Block 10 of grantors' subdivision of Lewisdale. Same obtained from Margaret C. Bohlen, 31 December 1945, 801:131.

Margaret C. Bohlen to John C. and Helen S. Lewis. Grantor conveys c. 400 acres (in three parcels) from the estates of E. Francis and Alwina Bohlen Riggs and T. Lawrason Riggs. To clear title, this deed is made.



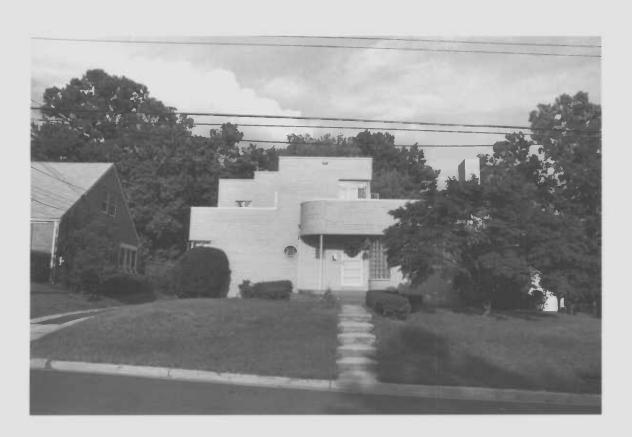




RIZZO HOUSE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MAKYLAND HOWARD & BERGER SEVENBER1991 FROM MORTHWEST

NEG: MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

20+12



RIZZO HOUSE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

HOWARD S. BERGER

SERVINGE (MAIN FACADE)

NEG: MAT, (ROWNSUILLE, NID

1 OF 13



PRINCE GEORGE'S WHITY, MARYLAND HOWHILD S. BERGER
SEMENTER 99/
FROM MORTHWEST (DETAIL)
MEG: MHT, CROWSULLE, MD
30 F/2



KIZZO HOUSE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY MAXYLAND HOWATED S. BERGER STEWBEL1991 ENTRY DETHIL PROM NORTHWEST NEG: MHT CROWISVICLE, MD 40F/2



RIZZO HOUSE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, WARYCHND HOWARD S. BERGER SEPTEMBER 991 CORNER WINDOW DETAIL (ISTEL) FROM NW NEG: MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD 50F12

H5#65-15



PS + 65-15

RIZZO HEUSE
FRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
HOWARD S. BERGER

FROM SOUTH WEST

LIEG: MHT, (RUNNISUILLE, MD)
60F12



RIZZO HUUSE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARGAND HOWARD S. BERGER SEPTEMBER 1991 EAST ELEVATION (REAR) NEG: MHT, CROWNSHIE, MD 70 F/2



RIZZO HOUSE

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

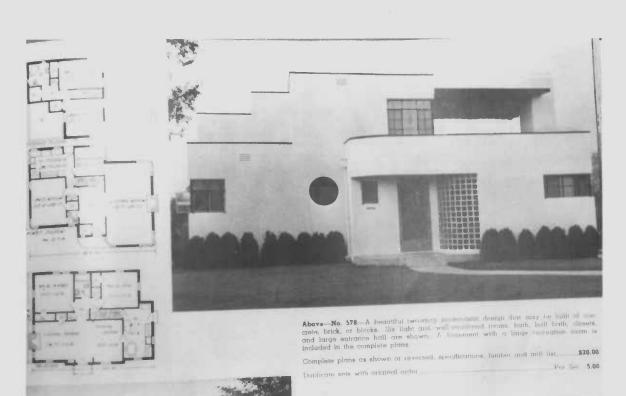
HOWATLO S. BERGER

SEMENDER 1991

EAST (REAL) ELEVATION! BASEDENT ENTERNICE DETAIL

NEG: MAT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

8 OF 12



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F5#65-15

RIZZU HOUSE PRIXICE GEORGES COUNTY, MARYLAND HOWARD S. BERGER SEPTEMBER 1991 GARUNGHOUSE CATALOG DETAIL (C. 1948) NEG. MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD 90112



PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND
HOWARD S. BERGER
SEPTEMBER 1991
LIEG! MHT, CROWNSULLE, MD
DETAIL! ENTRY DOOR FROM EAST (INTERIOR)

10 OF 12



PG#65-15
R1770 HOUSE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYCAMD
HOWARD S. BERGER

SECREMPER / 99/
NIES: MHT, CROWNS VILLE, MD
DET ALL: MAIN STAIR FROM WEST (INTERIOR)
11 6 F 12



PS 465-15

EIZZO HOUSE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAXID
HOWARD S. BERGER
SEPTEMBER 1991
KIEG: MHT, CROWNSVILLE, MD

DETAIL: LIVING ROOM FIREPLACE

120t12